

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 6-12 are now pending in this application for which applicant seeks reconsideration.

Amendment

A more descriptive title has been provided.

Claims 1-3, 10, and 11 have been amended to more clearly define the operating member. Moreover, the first and second control devices/steps have been changed to a control device/step. New claim 12 also has been added. Moreover, in light of the examiner's objection to the use of the language "computer-readable," this language has been changed to --storage--. Nonetheless, applicant submits that the present specification describes the storage medium as encompassing a RAM, an NV-RAM, a floppy disk, an optical disk, a magnetic-optical disk, a CD-ROM, etc. (see page 38), which are in fact all "computer-readable" medium. Accordingly, the present specification provides ample support for this language.

No new matter has been introduced.

Art Rejection

Claims 1, 6, 10, and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Oono (USP 6,055,378). Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Oono in view of Norita (USP 6,906,751). Claim 3 was rejected under § 103(a) as unpatentable over Oono. Claim 7 was rejected under § 103(a) as unpatentable over Oono in view of Okawara (USPGP 2002/0041334). Claim 8 was rejected under § 103(a) as unpatentable over Oono in view of Sato (USP 5,832,318). Lastly, claim 9 was rejected under § 103(a) as unpatentable over Oono in view of applicant's admitted prior art (AAPA).

First, applicant traverses the § 102 rejection since Oono has no manual focus control. In this respect, Independent claims 1, 10, and 11 now positively identify the operating device as a manual control for moving the focusing lens. Oono's zoom switch 71 does not correspond to the claimed operating member because its lens controller 70 controls the focus not based on the movement of the zoom switch 71, but rather merely based on data tables stored in its EEPROM 100. See column 8, lines 37 to column 9, line 17.

Oono discloses that when power is cut from the motor while two adjacent phases have been excited, the rotor sometimes stops at the position at the very moment power is cut but tends to further rotate in a forward or reverse direction to stop at either one of the adjacent two detent positions. In this respect, when the depth of focus becomes smaller than a

predetermined value, Oono increases the focusing sensitivity while when the depth of focus is larger than the predetermined value, Oono decreases the focusing sensitivity. Specifically, Oono discloses driving its focusing motor M2 to rotate its rotor in a stepwise increment when the depth of focus is smaller than a predetermined value, while driving its focusing motor M2 to rotate its rotor by even-numbered steps (i.e., two-steps at a time) when the depth of focus is greater than the predetermined value. Oono simply fails to disclose an operating member adapted to changed its operation amount by a manual focus control since it has no manual focus mode or device.

Moreover, Oono fails to disclose or teach determining the movement amount of the focusing motor M2 corresponding to the operation amount by present depth of focus. Oono thus would not have disclosed or taught the claimed detection device and the control unit or controlling step as set forth in independent claims 1, 10, and 11.

Second, as to claim 6, in contrast to the examiner's assertion, Oono does not disclose or teach detecting the movement of the zoom switch 71 using a photoelectric conversion type sensor. Oono's sensor 18 rather is a CCD sensor for capturing an image and not for tracking the movement of its zoom switch 71.

Conclusion

Applicant submits that claims 1-3 and 6-12 patentably distinguish over the applied references and are in condition for allowance. Should the examiner have any issues concerning this reply or any other outstanding issues remaining in this application, applicant urges the examiner to contact the undersigned to expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

ROSSI, KIMMS & McDOWELL LLP

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DATE

/Lyle Kimms 033008/

LYLE KIMMS

REG. NO. 34,079 (RULE 34, WHERE APPLICABLE)

P.O. Box 826

ASHBURN, VA 20146-0826

703-726-6020 (PHONE)

703-726-6024 (FAX)